



Sheltering Arms
Residential Care Home
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**Testimony of Janis Davis VP, Eldercare Services
Sheltering Arms / United Community & Family Services, Inc.**

Concerning

*Section 12 of H.B. No. 5020 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PUBLIC HEALTH.*

Public Health Committee Public Hearing, March 6, 2020

Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg, Senator Somers, Representative Petit, and Esteemed Members of the Public Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony regarding Section 12 of House Bill 5020- An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations Regarding Public Health.

My name is Janis Davis and I am the administrator at Sheltering Arms in Norwich. Our home has 30 licensed beds, all with private rooms. All of our residents must be over the age of 60 years of age, however our current population is mid 70's to 90's, with 95% being state funded. All residents are provided 24 hour supervision, medication administration, three meals a day, snacks, laundry service and recreational activities inside the facility and in the community. Several of our residents already participate in the Home and Community Based Waiver program being proposed as a required service for Residential Care Home residents.

I am testifying today to raise my concerns about Section 12 of HB5020 regarding discharges for residential care homes.

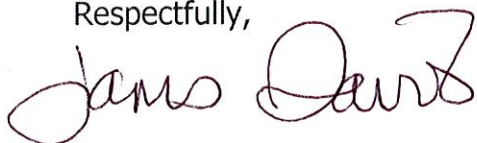
First let me say that the decision to discharge a resident is never made lightly. This decision is usually made because the resident in question is jeopardizing the health and safety of the other residents such as physical threats against residents, smoking in unsafe conditions or making threats to do harm to the facility. When these conditions are present the rest of the resident population lives in fear of their safety, as well as the facility staff that need to manage these situations all while tending to the care of the other residents.

On a few occasions we have had to request emergency discharges. This can be a lengthy and costly process which requires the time of staff to prepare the discharge, consoling and reassuring other residents and the additional costs of legal services to represent the business. Allowing the resident to be able to appeal to Superior Court only adds cost and additional time to a process that has been successful for most residents and facilities. Whenever we have been successful with an emergency discharge it has given the resident the ability to move to a more suitable facility where they can receive the care and treatment needed to be more successful. It has also allowed our other residents to feel safe in their current home environment.

RCH's are not apartments and services are provided to the residents because they are usually unable to manage most of the day to day needs without assistance. The ability to appeal to Superior Court would not be an appropriate setting to be making decisions regarding these residents.

Please do not support this recommended change to the discharge process for Residential Care Home. [

Respectfully,



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